

REMARKS

Claims 22-31 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

It is believed that the originally filed claims are patentably distinct over the previously recited combination of references. For instance, the Examiner asserts that U.S. Patent No. 5,872,647 (Taga) discloses a data stream having a duty cycle less than fifty percent. Applicant respectfully disagrees with this assertion. Rather, Taga teaches that the duty cycle of optical signal is preferably between 30-80%. Specifically, Taga refers to the RZ pulse signal which is shown in Figure 2B. This RZ pulse signal is an optical signal prior to it being modulated with the data signal d. Taga is silent as to the duty cycle of the data signal d

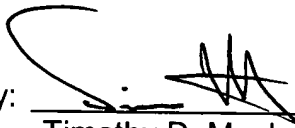
To the extent that a clock signal is extract from the data signal d, this signal is used to adjust the phase of the electric signal applied to the electro-adsorption modulator 2 (see, col. 2, line 61). It is readily appreciated that the phase and/or frequency of the RZ pulse signal may be correlated to the data signal while the duty cycle of the RZ pulse signal is not correlated to the data signal. In other words, the duty cycle of the RZ pulse signal may be set independently from the duty cycle of the data signal. Absent this explicit teaching from the reference, it cannot be inferred that the duty cycle of the optical signal is the same as the duty cycle of the data signal. Conversely, the data signal more than likely exhibits a conventional duty cycle which exceeds fifty percent. Accordingly, Taga fails to teach or suggest this aspect of Applicant's claimed invention.

Notwithstanding, pending Claims 1-21 have been cancelled and Claims 22-31 have been added to the application. These new claims recite subject matter similar to the cancelled claims, but more clearly defines certain features of the present invention. For instance, it is important that the reduced duty cycle of the data stream does not distort the optical pulse stream. Applicant's claimed synchronization process enables this objective to be met. None of the previously relied upon references or combinations thereof teaches or suggests Applicant's claimed invention. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections.

Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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